

## Intentions for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

### Saturday, March 13, IV Sunday of Lent (Vigil)

#### *Laetare Sunday*

5:00 pm Anne & Fred Roys

### Sunday, March 14, IV Sunday of Lent

#### *Laetare Sunday*

9:00 am George Lenz

12:00 pm Gary Breen (Anniversary)

### Monday, March 15, Lenten weekday

12:00 pm Andy Kenny (Living)

### Tuesday, March 16, Lenten weekday

12:00 pm Bernadette McLoughlin

### Wednesday, March 17, St. Patrick, Patronal Feast of the Archdiocese of New York

12:00 pm Diane Maria Persico (Anniversary)

### Thursday, March 18, Cyril of Jerusalem

12:00 pm Juanita Lois

### Friday, March 19, St. Joseph, Husband of Mary

12:00 pm Josephine Persico

7:00 pm Stations of the Cross

### Saturday, March 20, V Sunday of Lent (Vigil)

5:00 pm Special Intention—St. Joseph

### Sunday, March 21, V Sunday of Lent

9:00 am Patti Adcroft (Recovery of Health)

12:00 pm Robert O'Keefe (Birthday Remembrance)

## Attendance and Collections for the Third Sunday of Lent (March 7)

Our attendance last week was 221. The collection for March 7 was \$1464. Thank you for your generosity. Our second collection today is for the Restoration Fund.

## Please Pray for the Sick of Our Parish

Please pray for our sick parishioners: Patti Adcroft, Mary Barone, Mary Billings, Johnathan Caban, Anne Cahill, Kara Jean Fleming, Margaret Flynn, Sister Eileen McCabe, Carol Mohler, Jacqueline O'Grady, Clara Rancier, Fred Serafini. If you know of a parishioner who is sick, please contact the Rectory.

## Visit to the Sick, Homebound, or Hospitalized

If you or someone you know is sick, homebound, or hospitalized and would like a visit from a priest for Confession, Communion, or Anointing of the Sick, please call the Rectory.

## Stations of the Cross for Lent

There will be Stations of the Cross on the Fridays of Lent at 7:00 pm. The object of the Stations is to make in spirit, as it were, a pilgrimage to the chief scenes of Christ's Passion, by passing from Station to Station, with prayers at each and devout meditations on the scenes, with the singing of a stanza of the *Stabat Mater* while passing from one Station to the next.

## Help! Church Clean-Up—Next Saturday

Our clean-up volunteers will meet to clean the church at 9:30 am, on Saturday, March 21.

Cleaning-up the church together gives us a chance to gather as a community, to know one another a bit better, and to give thanks to God through the work of our hands. Moreover, we can count on the Lord's presence, for He said: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20).

## The Archdiocesan Stewardship Appeal

We have begun the 2010 Archdiocesan Stewardship Appeal. Please support the vital ministries, programs, and services provided through the Appeal each year. Please fill out your pledge card and send it in, indicating "Guardian Angel" on it. As Lent begins, we are reminded of our obligation to pray, to fast, and to give alms. Part of giving alms is to live our vocation of Stewardship, which is the responsibility of all those baptized into Christ.

## Special Thanks for the Party at Chelsea Piers

Once again, thanks to all of you for the "Spring Fever Party" at the Chelsea Piers on February 28. It was a great success. Over one hundred people came, and we raised \$3800 for our Restoration Fund. Special thanks to are due to Mrs. Mary Bambury & Mr. Ronnie Talerico, who put it all together, and to those who contributed four hundred dollars or more: Mr. John Sharkey, Ms. Colleen Lydon (of Moran's Restaurant), Ms. Jean Bambury, Mr. Peter Pappas, and Mr. & Mrs. Michael Brown.

## 2010 U.S. Census

In March 2010, more than 130 million addresses across the nation will receive a census form. The Constitution requires a census once a year. Please remember to participate, so that we all may be counted.

## Holy Week Schedule

### *Holy Thursday*

April 1, 7:00 pm—Mass of the Lord's Supper

### *Good Friday*

April 2, 3:00 pm—Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

### *Holy Saturday*

April 3, 8:00 pm—Easter Vigil

### *Easter Sunday*

April 4, Masses at 9:00 am and 12:00

## **Laetare Sunday**

*Laetare* Sunday, the fourth, or middle, Sunday of Lent, is so called from the first words of the Introit at Mass, "Laetare Jerusalem"—"Rejoice, O Jerusalem". During the first six or seven centuries the season of Lent commenced on the Sunday following Quinquagesima, and thus comprised only thirty-six fasting days. To these were afterwards added the four days preceding the first Sunday, in order to make up the forty days' fast, and one of the earliest liturgical notices of these extra days occurs in the special Gospels assigned to them in a Toulon manuscript of 714. Strictly speaking, the Thursday before *Laetare* Sunday is the middle day of Lent, and it was at one time observed as such, but afterwards the special signs of joy permitted on this day, intended to encourage the faithful in their course through the season of penance, were transferred to the Sunday following. They consist of (like those of *Gaudete* Sunday in Advent) in the use of flowers on the altar, and of the organ at Mass and Vespers; rose-colored vestments also allowed instead of purple. The contrast between *Laetare* and the other Sundays is thus emphasized, and is emblematical of the joys of this life, restrained rejoicing mingled with a certain amount of sadness. The station at Rome was on this day made at the church of Santa Croce in Gerusalemme, one of the seven chief basilicas; the Golden Rose, sent by the popes to Catholic sovereigns, used to be blessed at this time, and for this reason the day was sometimes called "Dominicade Rosa". Other names applied to it were Refreshment Sunday, or the Sunday of the Five Loaves, from a miracle recorded in the Gospel; Mid-Lent, *mi-carême*, or *mediana*; and Mothering Sunday, in allusion to the Epistle, which indicates our right to be called the sons of God as the source of all our joy, and also because formerly the faithful used to make their offerings in the cathedral or mother-church on this day. This latter name is still kept up in some remote parts of England, though the reason for it has ceased to exist.

### **It's a Girl!**

Msgr. Michael F. Hull

On January 6, "Little Christmas," my newest niece entered the world. Needless to say, for a big brother (I'm the oldest of six siblings), things don't get much better than a new niece. I now have eight nieces and nephews, and I could never put into words how much they have enriched my life. Each one of their births was for my family and me an inexplicable insight into the mystery of God's love and gift of life, as he continues to create us in his image and likeness (see Genesis 1:26-27). The birth of a beautiful baby is, perhaps, the most eloquent testimony of the sanctity of human life.

Every such birth is a moment to give thanks to

God for his goodness. And, it is also a time to reflect on the protection provided for human life in our land.

Those who support pro-abortion and infanticide positions in our country support what our late Holy Father Pope John Paul II called a "culture of death." It is our responsibility as good citizens to help everyone in our land live up to the hope of our Pledge of Allegiance: "liberty and justice for all"—born and unborn.

As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops reminds us, "There are some things we must never do, as individuals or as a society, because they are always incompatible with love of God and neighbor. Such actions are so deeply flawed that they are always opposed to the authentic good of persons. These are called 'intrinsically evil' actions. They must always be rejected and opposed and must never be supported or condoned. A prime example is the intentional taking of innocent human life, as in abortion and euthanasia. In our nation, abortion and euthanasia have become preeminent threats to human dignity because they directly attack life itself, the most fundamental human good and the condition for all others. It is a mistake with grave moral consequences to treat the destruction of innocent human life merely as a matter of individual choice. A legal system that violates the basic right to life on the grounds of choice is fundamentally flawed" (*Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States*, no. 22).

The statement of the American bishops is right on the money: We live with a legal system that is fundamentally flawed. And, all things being equal, there is no guarantee that the flawed legal system in which we find ourselves is likely to get better anytime soon. That our system is flawed should come as no surprise, for ours is a world fractured by original and actual sin. As St. Paul remarks, "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Nevertheless, St. Paul also admonishes us to strive to be children of God, "holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ [we] may be proud that [we] did not run in vain or labor in vain" (Philippians 2:16).

Holding a newborn infant in my arms, it seems that all is right with the world. And, indeed, much is. We have an *esprit de corps* in our land; we look to a bright future in what our National Anthem rightly calls "the land of the free and the home of the brave." Again, St. Paul comes to mind: "Have no anxiety about anything but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6). We must pray for the well-being of our land and our elected leaders on the national, state, and local levels. Likewise, we must work to ensure the protection of human life, so that we never tire of shouting in joy and jubilation: "It's a girl!" or "It's a boy!"